IRRIGATION

43. The progress of the irrigation schemes is handicapped by the inability to provide necessary resources. Every effort is being made to complete all the twelve spill-over schemes by the end of the current Plan. Of the six new schemes, Pamba, Kuttiadi and Chitturpuzha which are connected to the utilisation of regulated discharges from Power Schemes have been assigned higher priority. The other three schemes will be spilling over substantially to the Fourth Plan. A total provision of Rs. 1·9 crores is included in the budget for 1964-65 for major irrigation.

44. Minor irrigation works which need smaller outlay but produce quicker results are progressing satisfactorily. The outlay for 1964-65 is Rs. 1·18 crores.

ANTI-SEA EROSION

45. Sea erosion has become a serious problem in this State. During the first two years of the current Plan, sea walls with groynes for a length of 7 miles 1½ furlongs were constructed and it is expected that about 6 miles of sea walls will be completed this year. The original programme was to protect 25 miles of coastline during the Third Plan period. But the havoc caused in recent times to the coast-line calls for a substantial revision of the scope of anti-sea erosion works. The allocation itself has to be stepped up. In November 1963 an expert from the U. S. A. deputed by the Government of India inspected the erosions along our sea coast and suggested changes in the design of the beach-protection works. Revised estimates taking into account his suggestions are being prepared. For 1964-65 a provision of Rs. 80 lakhs is made for anti-sea erosion works.

FISHERIES

46. The scheme for the construction of mechanised boats is in good progress now, when compared with previous years. During 1964-65 it is proposed to construct 50 boats. Besides completing the Azhikode boat yard, a new boat yard will be constructed at Cannanore next year.

47. Preservation of fish is as important as production. The programme for 1964-65 therefore includes the erection of one new ice plant at Cannanore with UNICEF aid and the construction of four insulated vans and two carrier vessels. It is also proposed to install additional equipments in the freezing plants at Kozhikode and Cochin.

48. Kerala is already in the fore-front among the States in India in the matter of fish production. Improved methods of catching, transporting and preserving fish are being steadily applied. Export of fish has been expanding during the past few years. Last year the value of exports passed the four crore mark. The current year promises to be even better.

CO-OPERATION

49. Our efforts at promoting the co-operative movement have met with a great measure of success. The co-operative movement has been revitalised to shoulder the responsibility of increasing agricultural production. The organisation of farming societies on a large scale deserves special mention in this context. Short and medium term credit to the extent of Rs. 12 crores has been afforded to the agriculturists during the current financial year.

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